# PART I - ADMINISTRATIVE

## Section 1. General administrative information

**Title of project**

Northeast Oregon Wildlife Mitigation Project

**BPA project number:** 9608000
**Contract renewal date (mm/yyyy):** 10/1999 ☐ **Multiple actions?**

**Business name of agency, institution or organization requesting funding**
Nez Perce Tribe

**Business acronym (if appropriate)** NPT

**Proposal contact person or principal investigator:**


| | |
|---|---|
| **Name** | Loren A. Kronemann |
| **Mailing Address** | P.O. 365 |
| **City, ST Zip** | Lapwai, ID 83540 |
| **Phone** | 1-208-843-2162 |
| **Fax** | 1-208-843-7329 |
| **Email address** | |


**NPPC Program Measure Number(s) which this project addresses**
P.L. 96-501 sections 4(h) and 10(e)

**FWS/NMFS Biological Opinion Number(s) which this project addresses**
N/A

**Other planning document references**
N/A

**Short description**
Provide funding for the Operation & Maintenance actiities on 16,500 acres of the NEOR Wildlife Mitigation Project located on the breaks of Joseph and Cottonwood Creeks, tributaries of the Grande Ronde River, in NE Oregon.

**Target species**
Downy Woodpecker, Song Sparrow, Yellow Warbler, Marsh Wren, Western Meadowlark, Mule Deer, Chukar, California Quail, Ring-necked Pheasant, Mallard, Canada Goose, River Otter, and one for timber cover type - to be selected.

## Section 2. Sorting and evaluation

**Subbasin**
Grande Ronde River

### *Evaluation Process Sort*

| CBFWA caucus | Special evaluation process | ISRP project type |
|---|---|---|
| Mark one or more caucus | If your project fits either of these processes, mark one or both | Mark one or more categories |
| ☐ Anadromous fish<br>☐ Resident fish<br>☒ Wildlife | ☐ Multi-year (milestone-based evaluation)<br>☒ Watershed project evaluation | ☐ Watershed councils/model watersheds<br>☐ Information dissemination<br>☒ Operation & maintenance<br>☐ New construction<br>☐ Research & monitoring<br>☐ Implementation & management<br>☐ Wildlife habitat acquisitions |

## Section 3. Relationships to other Bonneville projects

***Umbrella / sub-proposal relationships.*** List umbrella project first.

| Project # | Project title/description |
|---|---|
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |

### *Other dependent or critically-related projects*

| Project # | Project title/description | Nature of relationship |
|---|---|---|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

## Section 4. Objectives, tasks and schedules

### *Past accomplishments*

| Year | Accomplishment | Met biological objectives? |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | All new aerial photography of the project lands and surrounding area | Yes, This is the first aerial photography ever done in project area. |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | Rebuilt access roads into the project area after major winter flooding | |
| 1998 | Initiated vegetation cover mapping project. Scanning area 7.5 minute orthophotoquads. Developing GIS Data Base. | |
| 1998 | Repaired and upgraded staff facilities in Tamarack Ck.: rebuilt electric generator power system, upgraded water system, major repairs on buildlings, road maintenance. | |
| 1998 | Repaired 1 mile of existing fence in area of heavy trespass grazing. Basin Creek | |
| 1998 | Established fire protection subcontract with Oregon State Department of Forestry, initial attack. | |
| 1998 | Repaired staff facilities in Basin Creek. | |
| 1998 | Bought additional 158 acres adjacent to existing property. | Additional HU's available |
| 1998 | Manual control of weeds along 6 miles of access road. | |
| 1998 | | |

### *Objectives and tasks*

| Obj 1,2,3 | Objective | Task a,b,c | Task |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Develop and maintain resource data base for project lands acquired by the NPT under BPA contract# 96B197175 | a | Maintain current mapping and aerial photography data |
| | | b | Develop new and maintain current GIS data bases |
| | | c | Acquire new mapping data to fill data gaps |
| | | d | Complete development and varification of vegetation cover map, digitizing 7.5 min. orthophotoquads into GIS Data layer. |
| 2 | Noxious weed monitoring and control | a | Monitor noxious weed presents and map distribution. |
| | | b | Coordinate with local agency weed supervisors |
| | | c | Control existing noxious weeds on up to 500 acres using excepted |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | methods of control. |
| 3 | Maintain the integrity of the property boundary against trespass grazing. | a | Survey fences and condition |
| | | b | Repair fences, gates and crossings. |
| | | c | Construct up to 5 miles of new fencing and gates. |
| 4 | Manage and maintain access to the property. | a | Maintain existing roads in good repair. |
| | | b | Develop and maintain information signs. |
| | | c | Coordinate, cooperate with neighbors, and volunteers who wish to work access projects using outside funding consistant with an approved access plan. |
| 5 | Maintain existing facilities on the property. | a | Maintain existing facilities in support of field crews. |
| 6 | Protect property and facilities against uncontrolled, unmanaged wildfire, consistant with fire management plan. | a | Contract for initial strike on uncontolled fires which are inconsistant with fire management plan. |
| | | b | Maintain fire equipment and fire cache in good condition. |
| | | c | Provide training in fire fighting and safety. |
| 7 | Project Administration | a | Staff training in operation, maintenance, and care of equipment and resources. |
| | | b | Quarterly reports |
| | | c | Coordination with agencies and neighbors. |
| 8 | Management Plan Implementation | a | Implement activities from an approved Management Plan consistant with the goals of wildlife mitigation. |
| | | b | Coordination and cooperation with agencies and neighbors on the implementation of a approved Management Plan |

### *Objective schedules and costs*

| Obj # | Start date mm/yyyy | End date mm/yyyy | Measureable biological objective(s) | Milestone | FY2000 Cost % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 10/1999 | 9/2000 | | | 3.00% |
| 2 | 10/1999 | 9/2000 | | | 15.00% |
| 3 | 10/1999 | 9/2000 | | | 29.00% |
| 4 | 10/1999 | 9/2000 | | | 9.00% |
| 5 | 10/1999 | 9/2000 | | | 10.00% |
| 6 | 10/1999 | 9/2000 | | | 9.00% |
| 7 | 10/1999 | 9/2000 | | | 7.00% |
| 8 | 10/1999 | 9/2000 | | Approved Management Plan | 18.00% |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | **Total** | 100.00% |

**Schedule constraints**
The NPT has acquired 10,458 acres todate, 6,002 acres to reach goal. Availability of willing sellers within the time frame to reach the goal is subject to market.

**Completion date**
Land acquisition time frame, completed by Oct. 1999. O & M funding is provided for up through FY 2001 by BPA/NPT aggreement, long term O & M funding (beyond FY2001) committed to under agreement by June, 2001.

## Section 5. Budget

**FY99 project budget (BPA obligated):** $144,384

### *FY2000 budget by line item*

| Item | Note | % of total | FY2000 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Personnel | | %27 | 63,394 |
| Fringe benefits | | %7 | 15,945 |
| Supplies, materials, non-expendable property | | %19 | 45,000 |
| Operations & maintenance | | %1 | 3,000 |
| Capital acquisitions or improvements (e.g. land, buildings, major equip.) | | %2 | 5,000 |
| NEPA costs | | %0 | 0 |
| Construction-related support | | %0 | 0 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| PIT tags | # of tags: | %0 | 0 |
| Travel | | %12 | 29,000 |
| Indirect costs | | %15 | 35,802 |
| Subcontractor | | %16 | 38,184 |
| Other | | %0 | 0 |
| **TOTAL BPA FY2000 BUDGET REQUEST** | | | $235,325 |

***Cost sharing***

| Organization | Item or service provided | % total project cost (incl. BPA) | Amount ($) |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | %0 | |
| | | %0 | |
| | | %0 | |
| | | %0 | |
| **Total project cost (including BPA portion)** | | | $235,325 |

***Outyear costs***

| | FY2001 | FY02 | FY03 | FY04 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Total budget** | $242,917 | $250,933 | $259,214 | $267,509 |

## Section 6. References

| Watershed? | Reference |
|---|---|
| ☐ | |
| ☐ | |
| ☐ | |
| ☐ | |

# PART II - NARRATIVE

## Section 7. Abstract

The NEOR Wildlife Mitigation Project is expected to mitigate for approximately half the outstanding wildlife losses amended into the PNPPC's Fish and Wildlife Program and attributed to the Lower Snake River Complex of Dams. The NPT entered in to a contract with BPA, #96BI97175, to provide funding to the NPT for acquisition and maintenance of approximately 16,500 acres in NE Oregon/SE Washington, of which 10,480 acres have been purchased to date. This proposal is for O & M funding related to project lands. The goal of the project is to protect and preserve the property for the benefit of native species (elk, bighorn sheep, quail, etc.) while protecting native plant communities and

watershed. Existing data and information gathered during the inventory of resources present on the property would be transferred to the NPTs' GIS system and used to develop a comprehensive Management Plan, following a public format, outlining future activities which will occur on the property. A long-term monitoring program will be developed, along with a baseline HEP evaluation to document habitat improvements. O & M funding will be used to maintain the integrity of the property and facilities found there while providing funds to implement an approved management plan. Initially the property will be managed for limited access, (by foot, horseback) until a management plan can be put into place. Management plans and their implementation should be fully underway in 2 to 4 years. Habitat, access, weed, and fire management will be the key to this project. The property will be managed for wildlife in perpetuity.

## Section 8. Project description

### a. Technical and/or scientific background

The construction of the Lower Snake River Complex of dams had an impact on wildlife along the full length of the Lower Snake River area. The ACOE and the State of Washington initially identified 3 categories of land types (upland, riparian, fishing access) to mitigate for the wildlife losses along the Lower Snake River. The ACOE, under the Lower Snake Comp Plan and working with the State of Washington, determined the losses using the HEP process (the method used by the NWPPC to measure habitat losses in its Fish and Wildlife Program). The Corps would then be consistent with the NWPPC Fish and Wildlife Program, the umbrella program for the Columbia River Basin wildlife mitigation program. While the ACOE met their obligations under the Plan, there were losses identified using HEP still remaining after all the land the ACOE was obligated to buy. The NWPPC amended the remaining losses into the program and recognized the NPT's priority to contract the mitigation of a portion of the identified habitat units.

### b. Rationale and significance to Regional Programs

The NEOR Wildlife Mitigation Project is designed to partially mitigate for losses of wildlife habitats in the Columbia Basin due to the construction of Federal Hydroelectric Dams. It is recognized in the NWPPC Fish and Wildlife Program that mitigating for habitat units lost was the key to wildlife mitigation. The project is located approximately 40 miles south of the Lower Snake River along the breaks of the Grande Ronde River, similar in terrain as along the Lower Snake River but at a smaller scale. Five perennial streams providing a wide variety of habitats on the property dissect the project area. The NEOR project falls outside of the Snake River reservoir area, which is subject to changes in river management policies thus safeguarding the investments made in positive wildlife mitigation accomplishments.

### c. Relationships to other projects

The location of the property provides the opportunity and necessity to work with the following groups and agencies:

**Wallow Whitman National Forest** – 4 miles of common boundary – the main access point to the property is through the forest.

**Hells Canyon National Recreation Area** – 3 miles of common boundary – access to the property is by trail through the NRA – grazing units on the NRA are accessed through the mitigation property by the existing permitee.

**The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation** – The project is an important winter range for elk in the region.

**Blue Mountain Elk Initiative** – The NPT is a charter member, who now owns important elk habitat in the region – cost share projects are likely through the Initiative.

**Hells Canyon BigHorn Sheep Recovery Project** – The Joseph Creek herd uses part of the project area at times. It could be an important recovery area in the future. It's a disease free area so far. It's a possible release site.

**Grande Ronde Model Watershed** – Project lands fall within the GRMW providing habitat for steelhead.

**BLM** – The project has numerous in-holdings within the boundary area.

**State of Oregon** – State land in-holdings are found within the boundary area.

**State of Oregon** – Fish & Game – Cooperative Game Management

**Wallowa County** – Cooperative Weed Management

**d. Project history** (for ongoing projects)

The NPT contracted with the BPA #96BI97175 who provided $4,500,000.00 to acquire approximately 16,500 acres of wildlife habitat, of which 10,458 acres has been bought to date. The contract provides for O & M funding through FY2001. Negotiations for long term funding of O & M was also addressed in the agreement. The NPT working with the Trust for Public Land identified an opportunity to acquire its first property in NE Oregon. With the approval of local governments, agencies and conservation groups, the NPT made its' first purchase under the contract in 1996. The first property bought was 10,300 acres providing habitat diversity, native grasslands, and riparian habitat for a wide variety of wildlife species. The property had limited access and the possibility of adjacent land acquisitions. Initial work on the project was to reestablish access to the property because of damaging floods during the winter of 96 and spring of 97. In fiscal year 97-98 the NPT received $411,393.00 to initiate O & M on the project and cover startup capital costs. A site manager was hired along with seasonal help. Due to the remoteness of the

area, roads, staff facilities, and fences where worked on first to provide a base for operations. Information on weed location, density, and distribution was noted by the first crews on the property. Coordination with neighbors and agencies was sought after early in the year. An additional 158 acres was purchased in 1998 adjacent to the existing property. This piece provides for the only contact point by phone on project lands and provides a high elevation view of the property. It is also the largest area of relatively flat land on the project. Fiscal year 98-99 O & M has been funded at $144,384.00. This funding level is proportional to the acres under management.

**e. Proposal objectives**

The objectives of this proposal is to provide funding to protect the integrity of the property and existing wildlife habitat units acquired for wildlife mitigation in NEOR against trespass grazing, noxious weeds, uncontrolled wildfire, while maintaining existing facilities and quality habitat. The objective of this proposal is as follows:

1. Develop and maintain a resource data base for mitigation project lands
2. Monitor and control noxious weeds on project lands
3. Maintain the integrity of the property boundary against trespass grazing
4. Manage and maintain access to the property
5. Maintain existing facilities
6. Protect property and facilities against uncontrolled wildfire
7. Project Administration
8. Management Plan Implementation

**f. Methods**

Very little information was available on the resources found in the mitigation area. All federal and state agencies were requested to supply a list of any data they had. All the existing mapping and resource data was collected and is maintained on file. All data will be transferred to the NPTs' GIS system in order to facilitate planning. New aerial photography was contracted to help varify vegetation cover and facilitate planning. The most current orthophotoquads will be digitized and a vegetation cover map developed using the current aerial photography. Ground truthing of vegetation cover map will occur after the digitized cover map is completed. GIS data layers also missing at the 7.5 min. quad level are the public land survey, land ownership, streams and creeks, roads and trails, fence lines, soils, and cultural resources. All these layers will be digitized, as the data becomes available.

Noxious weeds will be continuously monitored to determine distribution and rate of spread. Permanent plots will be set up and monitored. All weed data will be maintained on G IS. A weed management plan will be developed as a part of the overall Management Plan for the property. Weed management will be coordinated with local weed supervisors. Weed control efforts will be conducted on up to 500 acres using excepted methods of control.

Most of the neighbors around the mitigation property allow grazing by cattle or sheep. To control trespass grazing, all common fence lines with the neighbors will be surveyed and maintained in good repair. Five miles of new fence line will also be constructed in those areas which will be the most effective at reducing trespass grazing.

There are two access roads on to the property; both are susceptible to acts of nature. All existing roads will be maintained in good repair. Gates and information signs will be provided at all entrance points to the mitigation property.

There are three cabins on the existing property. Due to the remoteness of the property the facilities will be maintained in good condition to facilitate their use by staff and volunteers. Much of the property can only be accessed by horseback, so facilities will be maintained for such use. Historical buildings will be maintained in character.

Much of the NE Oregon Blue Mountain area falls within fire climax habitats. Summer and fall fires are common. A fire management plan will be developed to integrate prescribed burning into the management of the property. However, uncontrolled wildfire can be dangerous to staff and facilities. A contract with the State of Oregon will be maintained to provide initial attack on wildfire when they fall outside of prescription. A fire cache will be maintained with water pumping equipment available. Training in fire management, fire behavior, and fire fighting will be provided to staff. Staff will be provided with proper safety training to reduce injury in the field.

Once an approved management plan is developed staff will follow through with the implementation of the plan. The plan will outline long term goals for the habitats found on the property and ways to maintain and enhance the habitat to the benefit of wildlife.

### g. Facilities and equipment

The existing ownership has three cabins on the property, which will be used by field personnel to increase the efficiency of field crews, by having them stay out on the property while performing fieldwork. All the facilities provide shelter, water, bathrooms, cooking areas and storage. Capital equipment bought to date is a portable computer, a 24ft flat bed trailer, two 4-wheelers and a three-horse trailer. Two 4x4 trucks are leased by the project.

### h. Budget

**Personnel** – The personnel line item supports one ¼ time project supervisor, one full time site manager, and two six-month seasonals.

**Fringe Benefits** – A 30% fringe benefit covers full time permanent staff and 15% for seasonal staff.

**Supplies and materials** – This line item covers the cost of field and office supplies, along with field materials such as fencing materials, herbicide spray, materials for facility maintenance, gates and signage. There is 45 miles of perimeter boundary, which needs to be maintained most of it by foot or horseback.

**Operation and Maintenance** – covers utilities, communications.

**Capital acquisitions** – This line item is for replacement of existing capital equipment, and new equipment not foreseen at this time.

**Travel** – This line item covers the lease of two trucks, field per diem, and travel for coordination and training.

**Indirect Costs** – This varies from year to year. At the present time it is 22.9%.

**Subcontracts** – The subcontract line items cover such things as new fence construction, aerial weed spraying, road maintenance, facility maintenance, cultural resource surveys, and the initial fire attack contract.

The final budget is proportional to the number of acres under management out of the mitigation goal.

## Section 9. Key personnel

POSITION: Project Supervisor ¼ FTE

Loren A. Kronemann, Wildlife Mitigation Biologist

Duties: Supervise the management of all mitigation properties. Supervise management plan development and implementation. Participate in fieldwork. Provide administrative support and coordination of wildlife research and inventories. Supervise agency coordination.

Education: BS Wildlife Mgt. University of Idaho, Moscow, ID 73-77
MS Range Mgt. Wildlife Emphasis Texas Tech. Univ. Lubbock, TX 79-82
"The effects of fire on mule deer browse species in SE New Mexico."

Experience: Texas Tech Medical School, Lubbock, TX 83-87
U.S.F.W.S., Hobe Sound Nat. Wildlife Refuge, Giant Sea Turtles 82
U.S.F.W.S., Boise Field Office, Wildlife Mgt. Plan, Dworshak Res. 79
U. of Idaho, Wildlife habitat inventory on BLM lands in N. Idaho 77-79
U.S.F.W.S., Kenai Nat Moose Refuge, Alaska, Habitat study. 77

Background: Most all experience falls in the category of habitat management, a strong emphasis in habitat inventories and habitat management planning. Fire management was the bases of graduate work. Riparian habitat management is a strong interest area

POSITION: Site Manager 1FTE

Angela Sondenaa, Site Manager

Duties: Supervise the day to day management of the NEOR mitigation properties. Supervise staff in the fulfillment of the objectives as lists in the work plan. Head up field team management plan development and implementation. Participate in fieldwork. Provide administrative support and coordination for the field staff. Fill in for Project Supervisor with needed. Participate in all the agency and neighbor coordination.

Education: BS – Wildlife Bio. Oregon State Univ. Corvallis, OR 1990
PhD. – Botany – Dissertation,(to be completed), "The Reproductive Ecology of Douglasia idahoensis, a Rare Idaho Endemic."

Experience: U. of Idaho Acting Herbarium Director 96-98
U. of Idaho Research Assist. 97
U. of Idaho Teaching Assist. 95 & 96
Salmon River Range Dist. Nez Perce National Forest Wildlife Bio. 90-93

Background: Strength in botany and wildlife habitat management

## Section 10. Information/technology transfer

All data collected on the project will be maintained on the NPT's GIS system. All management documents will be made available to the public and agencies upon request. All information and data will be kept on computer for ease of distribution. If requested, personnel will be available for workshops, public and professional meetings.

## Congratulations!